

## How to Appropriate The Cross To Our Lives (Part 2)

The cross gives us:

- A. Freedom from self-centeredness. This freedom is death to...
  - 1. Old self and its baggage and ways of the past.
    - a) Pride
    - b) Personal ambition and \_\_\_\_\_
    - c) Division and \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. **The remedy:** Christ-centeredness.
    - a) Freedom from striving in our own \_\_\_\_\_, self-effort, self-promotion, self-accusation and accusation of others (2 Cor. 4:5)
    - b) No need to prove myself or self-vindicate.
      - (1) It is the Lord who judges
      - (2) Do not strive in our own strength. (2 Tim. 2:24-25)
      - (3) Now we \_\_\_\_\_ (passionately endeavor) in humility to submit—*yield* to the Holy Spirit.
- B. Freedom from the nature of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Cal. 5:24)
  - 1. We apply the cross by a decision of our \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 15:23; Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20)
  - 2. The flesh is our desire to serve ourselves and our varied passions, emotions, desires (1 Cor. 15:23)
    - a) Fear
    - b) Bitterness
    - c) Fits of anger, murderous intent, \_\_\_\_\_
    - d) Greed
    - e) Covetousness, \_\_\_\_\_
    - f) Sexual lusts: fornication, homosexuality, orgies, pornography etc.
  - 3. Unbelief and self-government.
  - 4. **The remedy:** by the cross we enter a living-death (sobriety) to the \_\_\_\_\_. Knowing its wages (destruction and the lake of fire) and we cling to the fear of the Lord.
    - a) Power to put off sinful ways and fulfill God's will (1 Pet. 4:1-2)
      - (1) Called to self-denial.
      - (2) Applying the "nails" is painful but rewarding.
    - b) We are freed from the curse of relying on the flesh.
      - (1) Our fleshly nature and ways cannot please God. (Rom. 8:8)
      - (2) By the Spirit we put to death the \_\_\_\_\_ of the flesh (Rom. 8:12-13)
      - (3) Appropriating the cross is the means by which we put the flesh to death.
    - c) We are freed to worship God in spirit and in \_\_\_\_\_.
      - (1) Worship God with all our heart and soul.
      - (2) Worship God in our obedience to His will and \_\_\_\_\_.
      - (3) We have no \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh, just the help of the Holy Spirit.

### Questions:

1. How can the decision to apply the cross to our lives (Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:20) help us overcome specific struggles, such as fear or bitterness?
2. What are practical steps for putting to death the misdeeds of the flesh by the Spirit (Romans 8:12-13)?
3. How does understanding that Christ “died as us” (Colossians 2:20-23) change your perspective on relying on self-effort versus depending on God?
4. What does it mean to "apply the nails" to our flesh, and why is this process both painful and rewarding?
5. How does the Holy Spirit empower us to put to death the misdeeds of the flesh?

### Answers How to Appropriately The Cross To Our Lives (Part 2)

- A. Freedom from self-centeredness. This freedom is death to...
1. Old self and its baggage and ways of the past.
    - d) Pride
    - e) Personal ambition and jealousy
    - f) Division and dissension
  2. **The remedy:** Christ-centeredness.
    - g) Freedom from striving in our own strength, self-effort, self-promotion, self-accusation and accusation of others (2 Cor. 4:5)
    - h) No need to prove myself or self-vindicate.
      - (1) It is the Lord who judges
      - (2) Do not strive in our own strength. (2 Tim. 2:24-25)
      - (3) Now we strive (passionately endeavor) in humility to submit—*yield* to the Holy Spirit.
- B. Freedom from the nature of the flesh (Cal. 5:24)
1. We apply the cross by a decision of our will (1 Cor. 15:23; Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20)
  2. The flesh is our desire to serve ourselves and our varied passions, emotions, desires (1 Cor. 15:23)
    - i) Fear
    - j) Bitterness
    - k) Fits of anger, murderous intent, hatred
    - l) Greed
    - m) Covetousness, jealousy
    - n) Sexual lusts: fornication, homosexuality, orgies, pornography etc.
  3. Unbelief and self-government.
  4. **The remedy:** by the cross we enter a living-death (sobriety) to the flesh. Knowing its wages (destruction and the lake of fire) and we cling to the fear of the Lord.
    - o) Power to put off sinful ways and fulfill God's will (1 Pet. 4:1-2)
      - (1) Called to self-denial.
      - (2) Applying the “nails” is painful but rewarding.
    - p) We are freed from the curse of relying on the flesh.

- (1) Our fleshly nature and ways cannot please God. (Rom. 8:8)
  - (2) By the Spirit we put to death the misdeeds of the flesh (Rom. 8:12-13)
  - (3) Appropriating the cross is the means by which we put the flesh to death.
- q)** We are freed to worship God in spirit and in truth.
- (1) Worship God with all our heart and soul.
  - (2) Worship God in our obedience to His ways and will.
  - (3) We have no confidence in the flesh, just the help of the Holy Spirit.